

# Order

Michigan Supreme Court  
Lansing, Michigan

December 1, 2014

Robert P. Young, Jr.,  
Chief Justice

150514(38)

Michael F. Cavanagh  
Stephen J. Markman  
Mary Beth Kelly  
Brian K. Zahra  
Bridget M. McCormack  
David F. Viviano,  
Justices

FREDDIE BILLS, JR.,  
Plaintiff-Appellant,

v

SC: 150514  
COA: 322054

BELLAMY CREEK CORRECTIONAL  
FACILITY WARDEN,  
Defendant-Appellee.

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On order of the Chief Justice, plaintiff's motion to waive fees is DENIED because MCL 600.2963 requires that a prisoner pursuing a civil action be liable for filing fees. Ordinarily, MCL 600.2963(8) would preclude a prisoner from filing a new application for leave to appeal in this Court when there is an outstanding balance owed for a prior civil appeal. However, applying that statutory section to bar plaintiff from initiating an application for leave to appeal from the original complaint for habeas corpus filed in the court of appeals would violate the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. *Smith v Bennett*, 365 US 708; 81 S Ct 895; 6 L Ed 2d 39 (1961).

The Clerk shall furnish two copies of this order to plaintiff. Plaintiff has 21 days from the certification of this order to submit one of those copies to this Court. By doing that, plaintiff acknowledges his responsibility to pay the \$375 filing fee. MCL 600.2963. Failure to timely submit the order will result in the appeal not being docketed in this Court. The Clerk shall retain plaintiff's pleadings until he timely submits the order or the 21-day period for doing so has expired.

Plaintiff is not required to pay an initial partial fee at the time he submits the order to this Court. The Department of Corrections is directed to collect amounts equal to 50 percent of the deposits made to plaintiff's account each month and remit \$375 to this Court when that full amount is collected. Plaintiff may not file further appeals in this Court from civil cases initiated by him until the entry fee in this appeal and any prior civil appeals is paid in full. MCL 600.2963(8).



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I, Larry S. Royster, Clerk of the Michigan Supreme Court, certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the order entered at the direction of the Court.

December 1, 2014

Clerk